

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our extreme disappointment with the decision to posthumously award Marine Corps Sergeant Rafael Peralta with the Navy Cross instead of the Medal of Honor. Sergeant Peralta was killed during combat operations in Iraq when he deliberately used his body to protect his fellow Marines from a grenade blast.

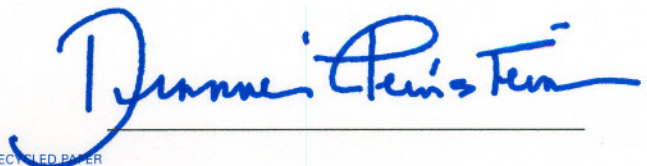
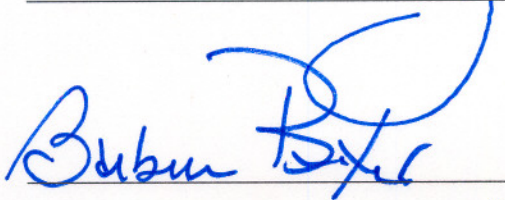
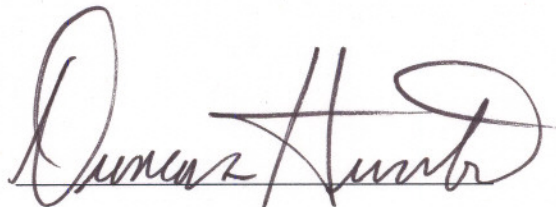
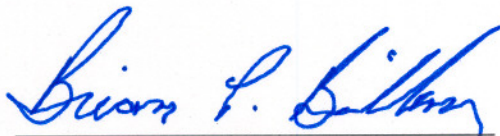
As you know, Sergeant Peralta was awarded the Navy Cross after the Department of Defense conducted a lengthy review of the circumstances surrounding his death and determined his actions are not deserving of the Medal of Honor. It is our understanding that the review panel could not confirm whether Sergeant Peralta's actions were deliberate, despite the fact that several eye witness accounts verify that he knowingly picked up the grenade and absorbed the full explosion with his body.

The selflessness and combat heroism of Sergeant Peralta is also recognized by the Navy Cross citation itself. According to the citation, Sergeant Peralta used his body to shield his comrades, who were only feet away from the grenade, "without hesitation and complete disregard for his own personal safety." Clearly, Sergeant Peralta, as confirmed by the award citation, made a deliberate decision to absorb the grenade blast in order to protect the lives of the Marines fighting directly by his side.

Mr. President, last year, you posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Corporal Jason Dunham for the same act of heroism in Anbar province. Intentionally absorbing a grenade blast to protect one's comrades in arms has been traditionally recognized by awarding the Medal of Honor. The sacrifice of Sergeant Peralta manifests the same devotion to one's comrades and country as that displayed by Jason Dunham.

We therefore request that a review of Sergeant Peralta's case be undertaken and that, unless a strong distinction is drawn between his actions and those of Corporal Dunham, Sergeant Peralta be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. We thank you for your attention to this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bob Feltner

Joe Green

~~Robert H. Green~~

Robert H. Green